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Secretary of Defense Schlesinger Statement
6:30 a. m. April 29, 1975

"Gentlemen, the President ordered the final withdrawal of the Americans from Vietnam at approximately 11:00 last night on the advice of the Ambassador and subsequent to the closing of Tan Son Nhut making it necessary to go to a helicopter lift. The first helicopter touched down at approximately 3:00 this morning, our time. Since that time we have lifted out approximately up to 4,000 people. The lift is continuing as well as can be expected. At the DAO compounds essentially all Americans and Vietnamese have now been removed and we're down to the ground security force. At the Embassy the evacuation is proceeding more slowly but it is proceeding expeditously and we hope in some hours, if all goes well, that the evacuation will be completed."

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